

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is committed to providing a safe environment for children riding in cars; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Child Safety Program has partnered with Children's Optimal Health and Dell Children's Hospital to increase child safety in vehicles; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), installing and using child safety seats may appear easy, but three out of four parents do not properly use child restraints; and

WHEREAS, vehicle crashes remain the number one killer of children ages 3-14 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in the last two years the City of Austin Police Department has issued approximately 1,900 citations to drivers who did not have a child safety seat or who did not have a child properly restrained; and

WHEREAS, under state law, individuals accused of violating the child safety seat statute can avoid a conviction merely by bringing a child safety seat to court without demonstrating that they own the seat or that they know how to use seat correctly; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes a program that teaches drivers how to install car seats properly and emphasizes the importance of consistent usage could reduce the number of children injured in traffic accidents; and

WHEREAS, funding may exist to provide participants with a new car seat after completing the short instructional course; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to apply for grant funding from the Texas Department of Transportation and other appropriate agencies to support implementation of a program to teach residents how to correctly use car child safety seats and to coordinate with appropriate city departments to encourage residents to take the program's class.

ADOPTED: _____, 2012

ATTEST: _____

Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk